

REMARKS

The election/restriction requirement dated May 16, 2006 holds that this application contains claims directed to seven patentably distinct inventions. More specifically, Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct groups for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I - Claims 1 and 8-10;

Group II - Claims 4-5;

Group III- Claim 12;

Group IV - Claims 6-7 and 25;

Group V - Claims 2-3 and 11;

Group VI - Claims 13-21; and

Group VII - Claims 22-24.

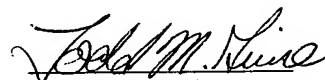
In response, Applicants hereby elect Group I without traverse. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1 and 8-10 since they read on the elected Group. Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 13-24. Claims 2-7, 11, 12, and 25 are believed to be directed to non-elected embodiments. Thus, these claims can be withdrawn from consideration in this case.

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Appl. No. 10/532,814
Amendment dated June 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2006

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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